



**Department of  
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# News Release

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## **VA Awards Recovery Funded Renewable Energy Project *Tucson VA Medical Center Installs Solar Cell System***

TUCSON – In support of ongoing energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded a \$14.7 million contract to build a solar system at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tucson, using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“Clean energy and other renewable energy projects enable our medical centers to be better stewards of the environment,” Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said. “VA is committed to be a leader within the federal government for ‘going green.’”

This facility will be installing a 2,900 kilowatt solar photovoltaic system, which is estimated to produce up to 18 percent of its annual electricity. This installation is planned to be completed by January 2011. VA selected this site based on results from feasibility studies that were performed to determine the most ideal locations to invest in on-site renewable energy projects.

VA’s goal is to increase renewable energy consumption to 15 percent of annual electricity usage by 2013. The installation of this solar PV system will help VA meet that goal.

VA has also awarded Recovery Act funds to install a geothermal renewable energy project at the VA medical center in St. Cloud, Minn.; a wind turbine at the Bourne National Cemetery in Massachusetts; and solar PV systems at the Albuquerque VA Medical Center; plus the national cemeteries in Calverton, N.Y., and San Joaquin, Calif.

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